

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 – 17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently amended) A transgenic plant comprising a recombinant expression cassette stably integrated into the genome thereof, said cassette comprising a promoter selected from the group consisting of maize zag2.1, maize ZAP, maize tb1, and maize PCNA2, and maize kn1, operably linked to a polynucleotide encoding isopentenyl transferase isolated from Agrobacterium, Arabidopsis, or Petunia, wherein said transgenic plant displays enhanced vigor compared to a corresponding plant without said cassette.

19. (Previously presented) Seeds of the transgenic plant of Claim 18, wherein said seeds comprise said promoter operably linked to said polynucleotide encoding isopentenyl transferase.

20. – 32. (Canceled)

33. (Previously presented) The transgenic plant of Claim 18, wherein said recombinant expression cassette further comprises one or more enhancer elements.

34. (Original) The transgenic plant of Claim 33 wherein the enhancer element comprises the 35S enhancer of cauliflower mosaic virus.

35. (Original) The transgenic plant of Claim 34 wherein the 35S enhancer comprises SEQ ID NO: 4.

36. (Currently amended) The transgenic plant of Claim 33 wherein the recombinant expression cassette comprises (1) a maize zag2.1 promoter operably linked to a polynucleotide encoding *ipt* and (2) a cauliflower mosaic virus 35S enhancer.

37. (Original) The transgenic plant of Claim 36 wherein the recombinant expression cassette comprises (1) SEQ ID NO: 3 operably linked to the coding region of SEQ ID NO: 1 and (2) SEQ ID NO: 4.

38.-43. (Canceled)

44. (Currently amended) A method of modulating cytokinin activity in a plant, comprising stably transforming said plant with a recombinant expression cassette comprising a promoter selected from the group consisting of maize zag2.1, maize ZAP, maize tb1, and maize PCNA2, and maize kn1, operably linked to a

polynucleotide encoding isopentenyl transferase isolated from *Agrobacterium*, *Arabidopsis*, or *Petunia*, wherein said transgenic plant displays enhanced vigor compared to a corresponding plant without said cassette.

45.-49. (Canceled)

50. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 44, wherein said recombinant expression cassette further comprises one or more enhancer elements.

51. (Original) The method of Claim 50 wherein the enhancer element comprises the 35S enhancer of cauliflower mosaic virus.

52. (Original) The method of Claim 51 wherein the 35S enhancer comprises SEQ ID NO: 4.

53. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 50 wherein the recombinant expression cassette comprises (1) a maize zag2.1 promoter operably linked to a polynucleotide encoding *Agrobacterium* *ipt* and (2) a cauliflower mosaic virus 35S enhancer.

54. (Original) The method of Claim 53 wherein the recombinant expression cassette comprises (1) SEQ ID NO: 3 operably linked to the coding region of SEQ ID NO: 1 and (2) SEQ ID NO: 4.

55.-67. (Canceled )

68. (Previously presented) The transgenic plant of Claim 18, wherein the plant is maize, soybean, sunflower, safflower, canola, wheat, barley, rye, alfalfa, or sorghum.

69. (Previously presented) The transgenic plant of Claim 68, wherein the plant is maize or soybean.